

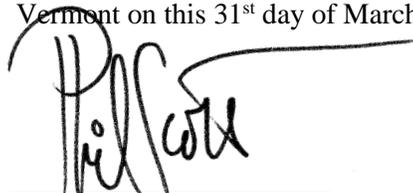
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the week of April 3-9, 2023 is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health”; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week and with the support of its state affiliates such as the Vermont Public Health Association, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and
- WHEREAS,** United States life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again and then dropped again between 2019 to 2021 (2.7 years) which is the largest two-year drop in life expectancy since 1921 to 1923; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and
- WHEREAS,** a person’s health status can differ drastically by zip code and ruralness due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care; and
- WHEREAS,** public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and
- WHEREAS,** public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and
- WHEREAS,** preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 United States adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2023 as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 31st day of March, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs